

## DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR

SUZANNE D. CASE CHAIRPERSON

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 7, 2020

## O'AHU OFFSHORE ISLETS & AHU O LAKA SANDBAR JOIN CLOSURE LIST

(Honolulu) - In order to maintain consistency with the City and County of Honolulu's closures of parks and beaches, all off-shore islands on Oʻahu will be closed beginning tonight at midnight. Ahu o Laka sandbar in Kaneohe Bay will also be closed.

Landing of boats, kayaks, or any other watercraft on these islands or the sandbar is prohibited. In addition to the closure of all State Parks on Oʻahu, announced yesterday, these additional closures are intended to discourage large gatherings. Access through the Wa'ahila State Recreation Area is only for transiting to the Wa'ahila Ridge Trail and access at the Pu'u Ualaka'a State Wayside is only for the Pu'u Ualaka'a Trail. The gates will remain closed.

The department supports all emergency rules ordered by Governor David Ige and Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell to stop the spread of COVID throughout our communities. Today, the Dept. of Health reported the highest single day case count ever, at 201, with all but one (1) of these cases on Oʻahu.

Currently forest lands remain open, including trails in the Na Ala Hele Trails and Access Program. It is permissible to cross through a state park in order to get to the ocean for approved activities. Gathering, loitering, picnicking, camping, and all other activities are not allowed during this closure period.

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